

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 EB-07 EUR-12 STR-04 TRSE-00 COME-00 OMB-01
/079 W
-----110955Z 008777 /14

P R 110902Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3826
INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO
CINCPAC

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EO 11652: N/A
TAGS: SOPN, PFOR, KS, US, XT, JA
SUBJECT: KOREAN PRESS REACTION TO WESTERN ECONOMIC SUMMIT

1. ON MAY 9-10, KOREAN VERNACULAR PRESS GAVE TOP COVERAGE TO ECONOMIC SUMMIT IN LONDON. EDITORIALS APPEARING MAY 10-11 GAVE A GENERALLY FAVORABLE ASSESSMENT, REFERRING TO SMOOTHNESS OF MEETING AND AGREEMENT OF SEVEN STRONGEST FREE ECONOMIES ON GENERAL PRINCIPLES FOR RECOVERY. SOME EDITORIALS POINTED OUT THAT PEOPLE HAD THEIR EYE ON PRESIDENT CARTER'S FIRST INTERNATIONAL MEETING, PARTICULARLY BECAUSE OF WEAKNESS OF SEVERAL OF THE OTHER POLITICAL LEADERS THERE ASSEMBLED. ALL EDITORIALS POINTED OUT THAT MANY PROBLEMS REMAIN, AND PROMISED TO WATCH CLOSELY THE DEGREE TO WHICH GENERAL PRINCIPLES AGREED ON WILL BE APPLIED TO COMPLICATED AND DEVISIVE ECONOMIC PROBLEMS. HAN'GUK ILBO ALSO POINTED TO OTHER DIFFICULTIES: NEGOTIATIONS WITH USSR ON SALT AND DETENTE, AND FRAGILE SITUATIONS IN MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTHERN AFRICA. TONGA ILBO POINTED OUT THAT TODAY'S ECONOMIC PROBLEMS CANNOT BE DECIDED BY AGREEMENT OF ADVANCED

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COUNTRIES ALONE AND THAT HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES WERE NOT MENTIONED IN FINAL DECLARATION.

2. NATIONALISTIC CHOSON ILBO'S EDITORIAL (5/10) WAS CONSIDERABLY MORE SKEPTICAL AND CRITICAL OF VALUE OF GENERAL AGREEMENTS EXPRESSED IN "ABSTRACT TERMS." WRITERS DEAL AT LENGTH WITH THEIR FEELING THAT CURRENT WORLD

ECONOMIC PROBLEMS ARE THE RESULT OF CONFRONTATION AND PROTECTIONISM BY ADVANCED COUNTRIES, WHICH IN TURN SQUEEZE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES," ESPECIALLY THOSE LIKE OURSELVES VERY DEPENDENT ON EXPORTS," BY BLOCKING THE LATTER'S EXPORTS TO THE RICH AND STIMULATING THE RICH (ESPECIALLY GERMANY AND JAPAN) TO EXPORT MORE TO THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. EDITORIAL ALSO REGRETS LACK OF PROGRESS ON NORTH-SOUTH ISSUES, SAYING "RESCUE POLICIES" FROM DEVELOPED COUNTRIES SOREL NEEDED, AND LABELLING \$1 BILLION SUM MENTIONED AS "A BISCUIT FOR AN ELEPHANT." WRITERS CONCLUDE THAT KOREA'S ECONOMIC POLICIES WILL BE "A GREAT PROBLEM" UNTIL SOLUTIONS ARE FOUND TO CURRENT INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC "UNEASE AND STAGNATION."

3. ALTHOUGH CHOSON'S EDITORIAL DIRECTS SOME VENOM TOWARD JAPAN, OTHERS ARE FREE OF THIS, AND NONE ATTACKED U.S.
SNEIDER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, PUBLIC ATTITUDES, SUMMIT MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 11-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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Executive Order: N/A
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Format: TEL
From: SEOUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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